of the entrepreneurs for their information and guidance.

Sd/-
(S. Bhavani)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India New Delhi, the 8th November, 1991.

F.No. 10(74)/91-LP

Forwarded to Press Information Bureau for giving vide publicity to the contents of the above Press Note.

Principal Information Officer, Press Information Bureau, New Delhi.

Housing Units in the Country

177. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 11th November, 1991 to the effect that around 10 million housing units must be built per year to meet the growing demand for housing units by 2000 A.D. in the country;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government propose to accord priority to National Capital Region expansion plan by organising workshop for the benefits of plot-holders, builders, contractors, the representatives of the Financial Institutions in collaboration with the National Housing Bank in Delhi during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The working group on Housing set up in the context of formulation of 8th Plan has estimated that the total housing needs in 8th Plan period i.e. 92-97 in terms of numbers will be 21.7 million dwelling units comprising 15.9 million new construction and 5.8 million upgradation and renovation of unserviceable and old housing stock. The per year requirement on this basis comes to 4.34 million units and not 10 million units.. The Eighth Plan is expected to take care of the housing requirements to the extent of available plan provisions and institutional support.

(c) Proposals for development of various priority towns and counter magnets in NCR have been worked out in the context of 8th Plan in consultation with concerned State Governments and State agencies as well as financial institutions. However, there is no proposal with Government to organise a workshop for this purpose.

Production of Maganese Ore

178. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Maganese Alloy producers have been forced either to cut down production or shut down furnaces due to shortage of high and medium grade maganese ore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons for non-availability of maganese ore at present and the remedial steps taken by Government so far to ease the situation

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) With the broad-banding of the ferro alloy industry last year, and its delicensing under the new Industrial Policy announced earlier this year, the inter-play of various emerging market forces may have resulted in some producers of ferro alloys facing temporary shortages of manganese ore which could also have been contributed to by inadequate planning and stocks to take care of short term

fluctuations in ore supplies etc. There has, however, been no shortage of manganese alloys required for steel production in the country.

Telephone connections in Jaipur, Bhubaneswar and Delhi

179. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applicants on the waiting list for telephone connections in Jaipur (Rajasthan), Bhubaneswar (Orissa) and in Delhi up to 15th October, 1991;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government for providing new telephone connections indicating the number of existing telephone Exchanges, expanded Exchanges converted into Electronic Exchanges at the above places; and

(c) whether any time limit for providing telephone to all the enlisted applicants at the above places has been fixed by Government; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The number of applicants on the waiting list for telephone connections upto 15th October, 1991 is as follows:

1.	Jaipur (Rajasthan)	47012
2.	Bhubaneswar (Orissa)	2428
3.	Delhi	322122

(as on 1.11.91)

(b) and (c) The details in respect of existing telephone exchanges/expanded exchanges along with electronic exchanges at Jaipur, Bhubaneswar and Delhi is as follows:

	Delhi	Bhubaneswar	Jaipur
1. No. of existing telephone exchanges/expanded exchanges.	71	2	11
2. No. of electronic exchanges.	50	1	8

As per draft 8th Plan proposals expansion programme are being drawn with an objective to provide telephone connections with waiting period not to exceed two years at these places, by the end of the 8th Plan.

Progress of Teesta Project, North Bengal

180. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of Teesta Project in North Bengal;

(b) whether any time limit has been fixed for completion of the project; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Against the latest estimated cost of Rs. 695 crores, an expenditure of about Rs. 352 crores has been incurred upto end of June, 1991. A potential of 25,000 hectares has been created against the planned potential of about 5.27 lakh hectares. The physical progress reported upto the end of June, 1991 is given in the statement attached. (See below).

(b) and (c) The project is scheduled to spill over beyond VIII Plan.